

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are pending.

Claims 5 and 10 to 13 were objected to. Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Volz. Claims 2, 3, 17 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Volz in view of John. Claims 4 to 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Volz in view of Puschnerat. Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Richards in view of John.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Objections

The claims have been amended as suggested and withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103 Rejections based on Volz

Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Volz. Claims 2, 3, 17 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Volz in view of John. Claims 4 to 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Volz in view of Puschnerat.

Claim 1 recites among other limitations “a first blanket cylinder for selectively contacting the first plate cylinder” and “a second blanket cylinder for selectively contacting the second plate cylinder.”

Volz et al does not disclose or mention the blanket cylinders selectively contacting plate cylinders. In fact, sheet-fed presses such as Volz typically do not throw off the plate or blanket cylinders, and this feature thus is also not inherent in Volz.

Claim 1 also recites “an anilox inker for inking the first plate cylinder” and “a second anilox inker for inking the second plate cylinder.”

Volz does not disclose an anilox inker. The roller D in Volz at column 6, line 2 is clearly

called a duct roller, which is followed downstream by a distribution roller R. In column 6, line 5, the roller HW is identified as a vibrator roller. The duct roller, distribution roller and vibrator roller is a conventional inking unit and clearly not an anilox inker, which would not have such a vibrator roller. None of the other embodiments of Volz teach an anilox inker. Moreover, sheet-fed presses such as Volz do not typically have anilox inkers as the quality often is insufficient for sheet-fed presses.

Claim 14 has similar limitations concerning selectively contacting of the cylinders and the anilox inkers.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 to Volz is respectfully requested.

For the same reason, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 to claims 2 to 13 and 15 to 20, which depend from claims 1 or 14, is respectfully submitted. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that it would not have been obvious to provide either the selective engagement or the anilox inker to the Volz device.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Richards/John Rejection

Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Richards in view of John.

The Richards reference is discussed in the BACKGROUND INFORMATION section of the present application at page 1, line 21. Richards does not show or disclose an anilox inker. John shows a blanket cylinder 1, a plate cylinder 5, an ink application cylinder 12, and an anilox roller 10.

Claim 1 requires “a first blanket cylinder for selectively contacting the first plate cylinder” and “a second blanket cylinder for selectively contacting the second plate cylinder” and anilox inkers for inking the plate cylinders. Claim 14 has similar limitations in this aspect.

The John reference is directed to an inking arrangement in which the blanket cylinder 1, plate cylinder 5 and the ink application cylinder 12 are all geared together, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of John and as discussed clearly at column 3, lines 34 to 39 and column 4, lines 42 to 46. The combination of the John teaching with Richards would have led one of skill in the art to gear

the blanket and plate cylinders together if an anilox inker was to have been used. Such gearing would have precluded the present claim 1 limitation of selectively contacting the plate cylinder with the blanket cylinder. The combination of John with Richards would not have resulted in the claimed invention.

In addition, there is no motivation in any of the references to combine the anilox inker of John with Richards. The stated motivation in the office action “for optimal [of] transferring of ink to a printing plate” is not found in any reference concerning anilox inkers, and there is no teaching or suggesting in the prior art that the use of an anilox inker would have led to optimal transferring of ink. The only suggestion for such a combination appears in applicant’s own application, which is not prior art, and the office action combination thus appears to be based on improper hindsight.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1 and 14 and their dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, claim 7 recites “wherein the first and second blanket cylinders have direct gears separated from the other, with each direct gear being driven by the third motor.” Neither Richards nor John shows this feature, and the office action does not address this limitation.

With further respect to claim 10, claim 10 recites “wherein the first anilox inker includes an ink form roll and the second anilox inker a second ink form roll, ~~an~~ and wherein in a first mode the ink form roll is driven directly by the first motor, and the first plate cylinder, first blanket cylinder and second blanket cylinder are driven indirectly by the first motor.” Neither Richards nor John shows this feature, and the office action does not address this limitation.

Claim 12 further recites in a second mode the second motor drives the second ink form roller, the second plate cylinder, and the first and second blanket cylinders. Neither Richards nor John shows this feature, and the office action does not address this limitation.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and applications respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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